

Dear Co-chairs and General Law Committee member,

I am testifying on behalf of Havens Harvest a nonprofit grassroots organization in New Haven Connecticut that recovers food from local business in the Greater New Haven and surrounding towns and distribute it to needy families in our neighborhoods. I am in support of bill HB. 5146, which will assist with alleviating hunger, provide poor families with nutritious food, reduce food waste and support food banks,

As a volunteer for Havens Harvest, I see the impacted difference between a food recovery organization and food pantries. These entities play a very crucial role in in the health and well-being of families, young and old. However, the language in this bill does not include Food Recovery Organizations. I am asking that the following consideration be made and included in this bill:

1. I ask that Food Recovery Organizations be added to the language of this bill.
2. Connecticut creates infrastructure and incentives for increasing storage capacity – this can be grants that will allow organizations to purchase refrigerators, rent storage spaces, etc.

I am very happy and thankful that most the supermarkets in our neighborhood donate food that would otherwise go to waste.

Sincerely,

Hyclis Williams